ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

At the outset, I take this privilege to acknowledge my gratitude and indebtedness to my supervisor Dr. Nani Bath, Professor, Department of Political Science, Rajiv Gandhi University for his valuable guidance, suggestions and constant encouragement throughout the course of study. It is because of his benevolent attitude and generous guidance that made this research works possible.

My sincere thanks to Prof. P.K. Panigrahi, Prof. Pura Tado, Dr. Nabam N. Hina, Dr. Tabang Mibang and other faculty members and staff of the Department of Political Science, Rajiv Gandhi University for their moral and intellectual support.

I would like to thank my colleagues Dr. Rejir Karlo, Dr. Dilip Gpgoi, Dr. Leki Sitang, Dr. Gomo Karbak, Mr. Pura Tago, Mr. Dani Kacha, and Ms. Mie Dirchi. But for their pressures and constant remainders, I would not have completed my research works.

Without the willing participation of the sample respondents, no scientific research is possible. I would offer my sincere gratitude to all the respondents, particularly the past and present leaders of AAPSU.

At the end, I may mention the names of my lovely daughter, Ms. Aai Panyang, and Mrs. Taken Naso Panyang, my sweet wife. This work is dedicated to these two ladies, who stood by me all through the difficult time.

(Kuku Panyang)